

I am opposed to any further deregulation of ownership. I believe that the changes which have occurred since 1996 have already had a considerable negative effect for the media consumer. Most markets are already dominated by one or two media companies offering a homogenized product that does not reflect local needs and interests.

As a former radio broadcaster, I have personally witnessed the changes that have occurred. Formats and playlists are determined largely by consultants, and many shifts are filled by voicetracking. Local news is reduced to little or nothing, and most often is a network feed or 'rip and read'. This also results in fewer jobs available for local broadcasters, journalists or producers.

I see no advantage in relaxing current ownership rules; in fact I would like to see more regulation instead of less. The last thing we need is cross-ownership in a market, further stifling the already limited supply of information and viewpoints available to the public. Thank you.